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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/554,740	10/28/2005	Motonori Yamamoto	280113US0PCT	1234
22850	7590	06/08/2009		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER DEES, NIKKI H	
			ART UNIT 1794	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 06/08/2009	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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<p align="center">Advisory Action Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief</p>	<p>Application No. 10/554,740</p>	<p>Applicant(s) YAMAMOTO ET AL.</p>	
	<p>Examiner Nikki H. Dees</p>	<p>Art Unit 1794</p>	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 27 May 2009 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: _____.
Claim(s) objected to: _____.
Claim(s) rejected: 11-24.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing a good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See Continuation Sheet.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information *Disclosure Statement*(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____.
13. ☐ Other: _____.

/Lien Tran/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1794

/Nikki H. Dees/
Examiner, Art Unit 1794

Continuation of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant argues (Remarks, pp. 2-3) that the polymer of Warzelhan is different than the polymer of the instant claims. It is noted that applicant's claims 11, 22, and 24 are to a polymer comprising or consisting essentially of the same materials as the polymer taught by Warzelhan. The reaction of the Warzelhan components (b1) and (b2) results in product P1. P1 comprises 95-99.9% by weight of the invention of Warzelhan (Q1). The presence of P1 in the range of 95 to 99.9 wt % of the final product of Warzelhan is considered to meet Applicant's limitations both comprising and consisting essentially of. As noted in the Final Rejection mailed March 5, 2009, the limitation "consisting essentially of" is construed as "comprising" in the absence of a showing of a material changing of the polymer in the presence of the additional ingredients of Warzelhan. Applicant has not provided such a showing, therefore the teachings of Warzelhan are considered to meet the polymer portion of Applicant's claims.

Applicant goes on to argue (Remarks, p. 3) that the statement by Warzelhan that the polymers may be used for packaging foodstuffs by avoiding the inclusion of any toxic compounds would not render the compounds obvious to try in chewing gums. It is noted that one of ordinary skill would have recognized that many of the polymers (e.g. butyl rubber and polyvinyl acetate) utilized in chewing gum bases have other applications that are not food related. These other applications have not precluded them for use in chewing gum. One of ordinary skill would have recognized that a polymer free of toxic compounds suitable for food packaging may also be suitable for use in chewing gum.

Applicant argues (Remarks, p. 4) that there is no motivation to substitute the polymer of Warzelhan in the invention of Grijpma. As previously stated, it was known in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize biodegradable polymers in chewing gums. The substitution of one known biodegradable polymer for another in a chewing gum is considered obvious in order to provide a biodegradable chewing gum product.